

NEW FOR FIRE SEASON 2005

- **Terminology in Lightning Activity Level and Red Flag Warnings**

The term “scattered” replaces the term “widely scattered” for lightning coverage as a Red Flag Warning criteria weather element for the Seattle NWS office.

- **“Episode” lightning definition**

To avoid confusion, NWS offices will not use the term “episodic” lightning when describing potential thunderstorm outbreaks with little rainfall. Rather, such events should be described as sufficient lightning strikes during dry fuel conditions to cause multiple ignitions. Strikes are accompanied by so little rainfall that fuel moisture remains essentially unchanged.

- **Names of fire weather zones**

The Portland NWS office will use the following names for its fire weather forecast zones:

ZONE 601: North Oregon Coast-South Washington Coast including Willapa Hills

ZONE 612: Central Oregon Coast

ZONE 602: North Coast Range

ZONE 603: Central Oregon Coast Range

ZONE 604: Willamette Valley and Clark County

ZONE 605: North Oregon Cascade Foothills

ZONE 606: Central Oregon Cascade Foothills

ZONE 607: North Oregon Cascades

ZONE 608: Central Oregon Cascades

ZONE 660: South Washington Cascades and Foothills

- **Zone boundary change**

The boundary between fire weather zone 609 and fire weather zone 631 in the Pendleton NWS office forecast district has been adjusted at the request of fire management. See the latest map on page 59.

- **New NWS spot forecast request form D-1**

An electronic copy of the new NWS D-1 spot forecast request form can be found at:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pdt/forecast/fireWeatherReports/spotRequestForm.pdf>

- **NORTHWEST GEOGRAPHIC AREA FIRE WEATHER ZONE MAPS**

Graphics of the current fire weather zone boundaries in Oregon are available at the following links:

Oregon statewide version:

http://www.odf.state.or.us/DIVISIONS/protection/fire_protection/smoke/fwz_sm.jpg

Graphics of the current fire weather zone boundaries around the Northwest Geographic Area are available at the following links:

NWS Seattle office

http://www.or.blm.gov/nwcc/nwcc-reports/publications/seattle_leg.jpg

NWS Portland office

http://www.or.blm.gov/nwcc/nwcc-reports/publications/portland_leg.jpg

NWS Medford office

http://www.or.blm.gov/nwcc/nwcc-reports/publications/medford_leg.jpg

NWS Spokane office

http://www.or.blm.gov/nwcc/nwcc-reports/publications/spokane_leg.jpg

NWS Pendleton office

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov//images/pdt/plots/fireZoneMap.gif>

NWS Boise office

http://www.or.blm.gov/nwcc/nwcc-reports/publications/boise_leg.jpg